

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the Application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 3-6, 14-18, 21, 23 and 24.

Claims 1-24

This response amends Claims 1-2, 7, 9-12 and 19-22 to clarify the scope of the invention.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-2, 8, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dickens (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,525). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner is reminded that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131 quoting *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co, of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The Examiner is also reminded that “[the] identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” MPEP 2131 quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Dickens teaches each and every element as set forth in the rejected claims. In particular:

Claim 1

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Dickens discloses, suggests or teaches, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“the impedance matching structure including only one protuberance or hump in the RF line **immediately adjacent** the at least one RF contact”
(emphasis added)

The Examiner seems to assert that “the RF line” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Dickens’ “RF conductors 42 and 43.” See page 2, last paragraph of the Official Action. The Examiner also seems to assert that “the RF contact” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Dickens’ “contact 64.” See page 2, last paragraph of the Official Action.

However, the Examiner has not specifically identified where Dickens discloses a “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1. Applicants submit that the Examiner failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) which states:

“In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes invention other than that claimed by Applicant, **the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable**. The pertinence, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified” (emphases added).

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to “designate as nearly as practicable” the particular part of Dickens relied upon in making the assertion that Dickens teaches “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1.

Dickens discloses conductors “42 and 43” that contain a wider portion and a narrower portion. See Figure 2A of Dickens. To address the Examiner’s rejection, Applicants presume that the Examiner considers the wider portion of the conductors “42 and 43” to be the “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1. If that is the case, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion.

According to Dickens, the wider portion of the conductors “42 and 43” is disposed away from the contact “64,” while the narrower portion of the conductors “42 and 43” is disposed immediately adjacent the contact “64.” See Figure 2A of Dickens. Because Dickens teaches that a wider portion, that the Examiner considers to be the “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1, is disposed away from the contact “64,” Dickens does not

teach, disclose or suggest “one protuberance or hump in the RF line immediately adjacent the at least one RF contact” as recited in Claim 1.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Dickens and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2 and 8, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also believed to be patentable over Dickens.

Claim 12

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, Dickens does not teach, disclose or suggest “the impedance matching structure comprising a single first protuberance disposed on the substrate in the first RF line immediately adjacent the first one of the two closeable RF contacts and a single second protuberance disposed on the substrate in the second RF line immediately adjacent the second one of the two closeable RF contacts” as recited in Claim 12.

Hence, Claim 12 is patentable over Dickens and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 13, at least based on its dependency on Claim 12, is also believed to be patentable over Dickens.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 19, 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Loo (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,659).

Applicants submit that the Examiner has **not** established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants note:

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. **Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.** The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success

must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure" (emphases added) *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because Loo does not teach each and every element as claimed in the present application.

Claim 1

Applicants submit that Loo does not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“...the impedance matching structure including **only** one protuberance or hump in the RF line...” (emphasis added)

The Examiner asserts that the limitation of including a “protuberance or hump” as recited in Claim 1 is disclosed by Loo’s “radial stubs 48.” See page 5, first paragraph of the Official Action.

Loo discloses two “radial stubs 48” being disposed on each of the lines 18 and 20 to obtain shunt capacitance. See Figure 6 of Loo. Because Loo requires two “radial stubs 48” being disposed on each of the lines 18 and 20 to obtain shunt capacitance, Loo does not teach, disclose or suggest “the impedance matching structure including only **one** protuberance or hump in the RF line” (emphasis added) as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, based on Loo’s teachings, it would not have been obvious to provide lines 18 and 20 with only one “radial stub 48,” as one skilled in the art would have to perform undue experimentation to obtain the same shunt capacitance as with both “radial stubs 48” on each of the lines 18 and 20.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over Loo and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d

1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 7 is also allowable.

Claim 9

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, Loo does not teach, disclose or suggest “single protuberance or hump in the RF conductor” as recited in Claim 9. Hence, Claim 9 is patentable over Loo and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 10-11, at least based on their dependency on Claim 9, are also believed to be patentable over Loo.

Claim 12

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, Loo does not teach, disclose or suggest “the impedance matching structure comprising a single first protuberance disposed on the substrate in the first RF line immediately adjacent the first one of the two closeable RF contacts and a single second protuberance disposed on the substrate in the second RF line immediately adjacent the second one of the two closeable RF contacts” as recited in Claim 12. Hence, Claim 12 is patentable over Loo and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Claim 19

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, Loo does not teach, disclose or suggest “a first element of said at least one capacitor being formed by a single protuberance formed in a RF line disposed on said substrate” as recited in Claim 19. Hence, Claim 19 is patentable over Loo and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claim 20, at least based on its dependency on Claim 19, is also believed to be patentable over Loo.

Claim 22

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above, Loo does not teach, disclose or suggest “the impedance matching structure including a pair of contact pads, each pad coupled to a signal line having a single protuberance or hump, the

protuberances or humps forming a π -network impedance matching circuit with the switch contacting bar" as recited in amended Claim 22. Hence, Claim 22 is patentable over Loo and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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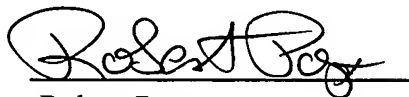


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August 9, 2005

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Respectfully submitted,



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